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ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

R&D 20

10 Jul 59

[redacted]

MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNDER SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE

SUBJECT: Northwest U.S. Tracking and Data Acquisition Station - Project SAMOS

I have your memorandum of June 30, 1959 requesting my concurrence in your proceeding with construction of the Northwest Tracking and Data Acquisition Station at Ft. Stevens, Oregon, utilizing Air Force funds.

As indicated in my dispatch of June 23, 1959 (copy attached) it is ARPA's current view that project SAMOS should be reviewed in the light of available funds for FY 1960 and we are proceeding with this review as expeditiously as possible. We will include in this review the technical considerations for a Northwest Station as opposed to utilizing the Vandenberg Station as originally planned. Furthermore, there appears to be confusion with respect to the utilization of a Northwest Tracking and Data Acquisition Station to augment the Alaskan Station for satellite recovery purposes, as outlined in AFBMD dispatch of June 3, 1959. A recent presentation by AFBMD to ARPA on Project MERCURY tracking indicated that the Alaskan Station is unsatisfactory for capsule recovery purposes and that it was proposed to accomplish this operation from a new station to be located in East Africa.

For these reasons I cannot concur at this time in your proposed action and request that the construction not be initiated until we have completed our program review.

Roy W. Johnson
Director

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